

# Mill to shut down No. 5 paper machine

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Early next year Georgia-Pacific will shut down one of its paper machines that has been in operation since 1907.

Camas mill officials announced Wednesday that paper machine number 5, which produces 65,000 tons of communication papers annually, would be retired in March 2004.

The decision was made to shut down the high-cost machine in an effort to streamline the mill's communication papers business and focus on faster-growing segments of the paper industry.

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— Carolyn McGreevy,  
Mill spokeswoman

reflection on the employees at Camas," said Ted Sapoznik, west division senior vice president of consumer products manufacturing, in a prepared

statement. "They have shown tremendous dedication to the Camas facility over the years and have worked hard to make number 5 paper machine competitive. However, the cost position of this machine coupled with a poor market for uncoated free sheet grades of paper has led us to make this decision at this time."

The closure will impact approximately 60 positions, although the exact number of people has yet to be finalized, according to spokeswoman Carolyn McGreevy.

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reassigned," she said.

The number 5 machine made a variety of papers for smaller, special orders for color reprographic paper used in the printing business, McGreevy said.

The last time G-P shut down any of its paper machines in Camas was a little more than two years ago.

In August 2001, G-P announced that it would retire four small high-cost paper machines, which caused the layoff of approximately 250 employees. At that time, officials also stated

that cut-size converting equipment would be added to increase the production of office papers, but McGreevy said the plan to bring that equipment to Camas has since been tabled.

Over the past 10 years, the number of people employed at the Camas mill has dropped. In 1993, there were 1,692 employees, in 2001 there were 1,400 workers, and after the number 5 machine is shut down the mill will have 1,100 hourly and salaried employees.

Peak employment at the mill was in the 1970s when it had 2,400 employees operat-

ing three bleach plants, 12 paper machines, 30-plus pieces of converting equipment, a pulp dryer, and a bag plant that has since been shut down.

Peak production was in 1998 when the Camas facility produced 567,054 tons of paper and 488,983 tons of bleached pulp per year.

Following the closure of the number 5 machine, the mill will produce approximately 235,000 tons of communication papers and 195,000 tons of converted towel and tissue products annually.